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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A resin composition consisting essentially of: (A) 10 to 70 parts by weight polyphenylene ether, (B) 15 to 75 parts by weight syndiotactic polystyrene polymer, (C) 0.10 to 50 40 parts by weight atactic polystyrene resin, (D) 5 to 40 parts by weight non-halogen fire retardant wherein the sum of components (A)+(B)+(C)+(D) = 100 parts by weight, and (E) hydrogenated styrene block copolymer in an amount of 10 to 200 parts by weight with respect to 100 parts by weight of resin composition wherein the thermoplastic elastomer hydrogenated block copolymer has a molecular weight distribution below 10 and the composition has a tensile strength greater than or equal to 34 and a tensile elongation greater than 5 when determined according to ASTM D638.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The resin composition of Claim 1, wherein the polyphenylene ether component is poly(2,6-dimethyl-1,4-phenylene)ether having intrinsic viscosity in the range of 0.08 to 0.60 dl/g when measured in chloroform at 30°C.

4. (previously presented) The resin composition of Claim 1, wherein the non-halogen fire retardant is an aromatic phosphoric ester.

5. (Currently amended) The resin composition of Claim 1, wherein the hydrogenated styrene-block copolymer is a block copolymer of styrene and butadiene or styrene and isoprene.

6. (Original) A wire covering made from the resin composition of Claim 1.

7. (Original) A cable covering made from the resin composition of Claim 1